

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A trawl apparatus including comprising:

a seafood/biomass gathering member,  
a trawl, and  
a seafood/biomass conveyor, said seafood/biomass conveyor being connected to transport seafood/biomass from said trawl to a vessel, said conveyor including a hose, said hose having an upper region, said upper region having an upward gradient, towards the surface of the sea, wherein said apparatus includes an injector mounted in said upper region of said conveyor having said upward gradient, wherein said upper region is located between the vessel and an upper part of the trawl and is substantially spaced from the trawl, said injector being operable to urge seafood/biomass through said hose from the trawl to the vessel via said upward gradient.

24. (previously presented) A trawl apparatus according to claim 23, wherein:

the trawl has an elongate, rigid or flexible collecting cage;

said collecting cage being chosen from the set of collecting cages consisting of (a) rigid collecting cages and (b) flexible collecting cages;

said elongate collecting cage has a first portion, said first portion including an inlet opening;

said inlet opening is located rearwardly of said trawl, and is connected thereto;

said collecting cage has a second portion, said inlet opening leading into said second portion;

said second portion having openings therein, said opening being operable to strain water;

said collecting cage has a third portion mounted downstream of said second portion a funnel is connected to said downstream portion;

a filtering grille is mounted upstream of said funnel to filter away seafood or biomass which is not to be led to the funnel,

a conveying hose is connected to said funnel, said conveying hose being mounted to convey seafood/biomass to the receiving vessel; and

a fluid supply hose is mounted to inject fluid supplied from the vessel into the conveying hose via the injector to urge seafood/biomass to pass from said collecting cage to the vessel.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the injector is depth adjustable to be positioned at a required location in said upper area.

27. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said sorting or filtering grille is provided at the inlet opening of the collecting cage and is arranged to extend obliquely inwards and upwards, downwards and/or sideways in the collecting cage; and a portion of roof, bottom and/or walls of the collecting cage located at a downstream end of the grille is open, so that seafood/biomass, ~~for example,~~ fish, or foreign objects over a certain size do not pass through the grille, but are led through at least one portion and away from the collecting cage.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the openings for straining water are formed of a self-cleaning grating or grille structure.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein a mechanically operating cleaning device is provided on the collecting cage to clean grating structure thereon at

least one of a cage wall, a cage roof or a cage bottom portion of the collecting cage is equipped with a mechanical device for effecting the cleaning of the grating or grille structure.

30. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the collecting cage is modularly constructed of joined sections.

31. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the funnel is inside the cage, and the mouth of the funnel faces and is spaced from the closed aft wall of the cage.

32. (new) A trawl apparatus with a trawl and a means for gathering seafood/biomass and conveying it to a seafood/biomass receiving vessel, comprising:

a conveying hose or pipe for conveying sea food/biomass from the trawl to the vessel,

wherein air or other fluid is supplied from the vessel via a supply hose for injection into the conveying hose or the pipe in order, by injector effect or fluid displacement technique, to bring the seafood/biomass up to the vessel,

wherein the supply of air or other fluid is, via the supply hose, adapted to be injected at a point on the conveying hose or

pipe by means of an injector in an area of the conveying hose or pipe,

wherein said area of the conveying hose or pipe is an upper area which has a marked upward gradient towards the surface of the sea, such that the injector is placed in a region between the vessel and an upper part of an inlet of the trawl, and the injector is substantially spaced from the trawl.

33. (new) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the trawl has an elongate, rigid or flexible collecting cage which at an inlet opening is connected to the rear end region of the trawl, and from the inlet opening extends into a second portion.

34. (new) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said collecting cage has openings for straining water, and is terminated in a downstream portion of the cage via a funnel.

35. (new) An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein a filtering grille is provided to filter away seafood or biomass which is not to be led to said funnel.

36. (new) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the injector is depth adjustable to be positioned at a required location in said upper area.

37. (new) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said sorting or filtering grille is provided at the inlet opening of the collecting cage and is arranged to extend obliquely inwards and upwards, downwards and/or sideways in the collecting cage; and

wherein a portion of roof, bottom and/or walls of the collecting cage located at a downstream end of the grille is open, so that seafood/biomass over a certain size do not pass through the grille but are led through the at least one open portion) and away from the collecting cage.

38. (new) An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the openings for straining water are formed of a self-cleaning grating or grille structure which may be rigid or flexible.

39. (new) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein at least one wall, roof or bottom portion of the collecting cage is equipped with a mechanical device for effecting the cleaning of cage grating thereat.

40. (new) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the collecting cage is modularly constructed of joined sections.

41. (new) An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the funnel is inside the cage, the mouth of the funnel facing an spaced from closed aft wall of the cage.

42. (new) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein a connection with, after or during the conveyance of the sea food/biomass from the collecting cage to the vessel, there is provided a straining device to separate seafood/biomass from seawater which accompanies it during its conveyance from the collecting cage to the vessel, and

wherein in connection with the straining device there is provided a deceleration device which is designed to reduce the conveying rate of conveyed seafood/biomass.

43. (new) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein sensors are provided on or in connection with the collecting cage for monitoring the position/orientation of the collecting cage in the water, depth, or water flow.

44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the conveying hose extends from a rear end of the trawl, from the rear end down and along an underside of the trawl towards an inlet region of the trawl, and from the trawl inlet region towards in front of the trawl inlet towards said upper area and the vessel.

45. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the conveying hose extends from a rear end of the trawl, from the rear end down and along an underside of the trawl towards an inlet region of the trawl, and from the trawl inlet region towards in front of the trawl inlet towards said upper area and the vessel.